

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, 1879.

The Hon. W. Macleay, M.L.C., F.L.S., in the Chair.

Mr. Andrew Goldie, from New Guinea, was present as a visitor.

Lamont Young Esq., C.E., F.G.S., Geological Surveyor, was elected a member of the Society.

DONATIONS.

From Baron F. von Mueller, K.C.M.G., "Eucalyptographia," Decade IV.

From Royal Society of London, Proceedings of the Society, Vols. XXVI., to XXIX.

From Societe Entomologique de Belgique, Compte Rendus, Nos. 66 to 68.

PAPERS READ.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ZOOLOGY OF NEW GUINEA.
Part VI.

ON SOME NEW AND RARE BIRDS, FROM SOUTH EAST COAST OF
NEW GUINEA, &c.

By E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S., CORRESPONDING MEMBER ROYAL
SOCIETY OF TASMANIA, &c.

Immediately on Mr. Goldie's return he kindly placed at my disposal, his large and interesting collections, made during the last six months of the present year. I find among them, specimens of nearly all the species represented in his three previous collections, with a few additional species of great interest, which I now proceed to enumerate.

On this last trip, Mr. Goldie has succeeded in penetrating into new and unworked fields, and has been rewarded by the acquisition of some remarkably interesting species, a complete list of which will be given hereafter.

Lieutenant Richards, R.N., has also very kindly allowed me to examine a fine collection made by him at the Solomon Islands and Duke of York groups, from which I have described a few species appearing to me to be new. His fine collection and the careful data have afforded me much useful information in the preparation of a revised list of Birds of Duke of York Group, which I hope shortly to lay before the Society.

ASTUR BRACHYURUS, sp. nov.

Head and the whole of the upper surface dark blue slaty-grey, lighter on the cheeks ; a collar of rich rufous round the back of the neck, throat and all the under surface ashy-grey, becoming white on the abdomen and under tail coverts ; wings blackish slate-blue above, freckled and barred with the same tint on the inner webs, which are ashy at the base and on the under surface washed with fawn color, about 10 bars on the quills ; tail dark bluish slate-grey above, ashy on the under surface, the centre and outer tail feathers without bars, the rest crossed with 10 to 12 blackish bars ; feet and legs yellow ; bill and claws black, cere yellowish ; total length 13 in., wing 8 in., tail 6 in., tarsus 2·5, mid toe, s. u. 1·6, first joint 7·5, second 0·5, third 0·5, hind toe, s. u. 8·5 ; its claw above the curve, 1 in.

The long mid. toe of this species gives it more the look of an *Accipiter* than of an *Astur*.

Hab. Thirty miles inland.

? *ASTUR SPILOTHORAX, Salvadori.*

The whole of the upper surface dark bluish-slate color, the base of the feathers on the head and nape being white ; cheeks bluish ashy-grey ; throat and all the under surface white, each feather striped down the centre with blackish ashy-brown, forming narrow lines on the throat, flanks and thighs, and under tail-coverts, and broad lanceolate shaft lines on the chest, breast and sides ; under wing-coverts white, or slightly tinged with buff,

also with remains of linear shaft lines; quills of the wings and tail barred by 8 to 10 blackish-brown bars, which do not reach the margin of the inner webs, margin and bases of the inner webs white, or faintly tinged with buff on the primaries, all the tail feathers barred except the centre two; central portions of the scapulars white, with remains only of the bars. Bill, 0·9; culmen, 1 in.; length, 13 in.; wing, 7·5; tail, 6·5; tarsus, 2·3; bill and claws, black; base of lower mandible, cere, and legs, orange-yellow; sex, ♂?

Hab. Inland from Port Moresby, about 40 miles.

I have given a description of this bird, as I am not quite convinced that it is altogether identical with the *Astur spilothorax* of Count Salvadori.

NINOX TERRICOLOR, *sp. nov.*

All the upper surface of the body, head, wings, and tail dark uniform earthly-chocolate brown, the basal portion of the feathers of a dull, dark-slaty hue; the wings and tail of a slightly lighter tint, barred with the same hue as the back, the bars extending quite across both webs and edging the inner webs of the quills, which become white at the base, except on the first four or five primaries, which are brown to the base; the whole interspaces thus enclosed forming a row of oval blotches, gradually becoming smaller towards the tips of the feathers, which are brown; the tail feathers similarly marked, the interspaces white at the base, brown at the tip, bars on wings and tail at 8 to 10, a few scattered spots of whitish on the scapulars, remains of the white interspaces; throat scantily clothed with dull brown feathers; lores, with stiff feathers, black at the tips; sides of the neck, chest, sides of the body and breast, dark reddish-chocolate brown; the abdomen and the flanks tipped with the same tint, the concealed portions of the feathers barred with fulvous-white—at the tip in the margins only; legs of a lighter tint of chocolate-brown, inclining to fulvous; under tail-coverts fulvous; margins of the wings

below, dark fulvous and chocolate-brown, barred indistinctly, outer series barred with dark brown and white; total length, 9·5 to 10 in.; wing, 6·5; tail, 3·8; tarsus, 1 in.; culmen, 1 in.; bill from cere to tip, 0·5.

Hab. Goldie River, 30 miles inland.

? TANYSIPTERA MYMPHA, *juv.*

The young bird is of a uniform dull brown, the chest and upper tail-coverts vermilion-red; wings, blackish with the outer webs of the quills bluish, and the tips of the coverts light rufous-brown; two centre tail feathers blue, with white tips; bill coral red; legs and feet, reddish-brown. This may eventually prove to be the young of a more allied species.

Hab. Goldie River, 30 miles inland.

? RHECTES (*Oreoica*?) BRUNNCICEPS, *Salvadori.*

Upper surface dull earthy-brown; the upper tail-coverts and tail darker, and of a rich rufous-brown, hind neck and cheeks rufous-brown; all the under surface pale rufous, deeper rufous on the sides of the neck and chest; head with erect crest, inclining to rufous-brown; bill, black; legs, dull-brown; length, 8·6; wing, 4·4; tail, 3·5; tarsus, 1·5; bill from forehead, 1 in.

Mr. Goldie informs me that this bird has a loud ringing bell-like note, from which it became known to his party as "Bell-bird."

The bill is comparatively short, strong, laterally compressed, somewhat wedge-shaped, like that of *Oreoica*, length of bill, 1 in.; culmen, 1·05; height of mandibles at nostrils, 0·4; breadth, 0·25; length from nostril to tip, 0·55; from tip of upper mandible to gape, 1·1 in. First quill half the length of the fifth, which is longest; fifth, sixth, and seventh nearly equal; the second quill distinctly shorter than the longest secondary.

Hab. Goldie River, 30 miles inland.

PIEZORHYNCHUS MELANOCEPHALUS, *sp. nov.*(? *Piezorhynchus vidua*, *Trist.*)

The whole of the head and throat black, with slight blue-black gloss; back, wings, and tail, black; the three outer feathers of the latter tipped with white; greater coverts of the wings white, slightly margined at the tips with black; lesser coverts white, margined with black; a few of the scapulars margined or tipped laterally with white; a broad white band across the nape, tipping the black ear-coverts with white; uropygious and upper tail-coverts, white; chest and remainder of the under surface white; margins of the wings below, black; under surface of the quills, blackish; bill black; legs, lead-color; total length, 5.5 to 6 in.; wing, 2.65; tail, 2.7; tarsus, 0.7.

“♂ *iris, feet, and bill, black*; “*Makira Harbour, San Christoval, May 21st, 1879.*”—(*Richards.*)

Hab. San Christoval, Solomon Islands.

SERICORNIS ? FULVI-PECTORIS, *sp. nov.*

General color above earthy-brown, almost black on the head and lores, browner on the outer webs of the tail; wings, blackish-brown, brown on the outer webs; all the under surface, fulvescent, almost white on the throat, deepening into rich fulvous (or light cinnamon) on the chest, breast, and flanks, and under tail-coverts; the centre of the abdomen white; under wing-coverts like the breast; bill, dark brown above, lower mandible whitish; legs, light-yellow; total length, 4.4; wing, 2.4; tail, 1.9; tarsus, 0.95; bill. 0.7.

I have placed this bird provisionally in the Australian genus *Sericornis*, as coming nearest to that genus; the description is taken from what I believe to be a young bird. Only one specimen was obtained.

Hab. Goldie River, 30 miles inland.

MYZOMELA FORBESI, *sp. nov.*

The whole of the upper and under surface and margins of the shoulders below, jet black; under wing-coverts and margins of the inner webs of the quills, except the tips, white; on the front of the head a somewhat square shaped patch of rich crimson.

A specimen, said to be the female of this species is exactly the same in plumage, but without the crimson on the head.

Total length from tip of the bill, 4.4 inches; wing, 2.4; tail, 1.7; tarsus, 0.6; bill from forehead, 0.8, from nostril, 0.5, from gape, 0.75.

Hab. Woodlark Island.

I have named this species in honor of W. A. Forbes, Esq., F.Z.S., from whose valuable monograph on this family I have derived much useful information.

Among the Honey-eaters is another species of a jet black color from the Goldie River, probably identical with *M. nigrita*, of G. R. Gray, and what at present I take to be a specimen of *Glycichaera fallax* of Salvadori.

? DREPANORNIS D'ALBERTISI, *Slater.*

A female only of this (?) remarkable species was obtained, which differs but very little from Mr. Gould's drawings of the original, nevertheless from the much lighter tint of rufous on the upper coverts and rump, and dark brown head and neck above. I am inclined to think it may represent a distinct species, when specimens of the male bird are received from this *new* locality, a better comparrison can be made.

Hab. Dense scrubs inland from Port Moresby, Goldie River.

MANUCODIA COMRII, *Slater.*

One of the most remarkable features in the collection, is a series of this fine species, adults, males and females, the true habitat is D'Entracasteaux Island.

The following are the measurements of some of the specimens :

	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
Sex	♂	♂	♀	♀
Total length	17·8	16·5	16·	16·0
Wing	9·2	9·2	8·7	8·5
Tail, outer feathers	6·0	5·9	6·0	6·2
Tail, centre curved feathers	6·6	6·5	6·2	
Tarsus	2·25	2·25	2·05	2·05
Bill, from forehead	2·3	2·2	2·1	2·05
Bill, from gape	2·2	2·15	2·05	2·0
Bill, from nostril	1·5	1·4	1·3	1·3

There are also two species of Cassowarys, one ? *Casuaris uniappendiculatus*, the other probably *C. beccarii*. The helmet of the one I believe to be *C. uniappendiculatus*, adult, resembles that of the *Morruk C. bennettii*.

In a future paper I hope to give a complete list of the collections made by Mr. Goldie, numbering about 1400 skins.

CHALCOPHAPS HELVIVENTRIS, *Salvadori*.

Several specimens of this very distinct species.

PTILOPUS NANA, *Temm*.

Four specimens of this dove were obtained.

OTIDIPHAPS NOBILIS, *var. CERVICALIS*.

This species differs from Dr. Grey's description of ♀ *nobilis*, in having a white or ashy patch in the nape, and in the uropygium and upper tail-coverts being of a rich metallic *green* and not purple. I have only the original description to go by, which has probably been taken from a mutilated skin.

All Mr. Goldie's specimens of this magnificent bird are alike, both males and females ; he informs me that they were obtained only with great difficulty in the dense scrubs far inland, and always on the ground, in habits they resemble the *Gouræ*.

Hab. Goldie River.